

CONCOCTIO genus nov.

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Insecta: Hymenoptera: Formicidae

Worker: Very small in size, total length slightly over 2 mm; apparently monomorphic. Related to Amblyopone and Prionopelta; habitus that of a small, stout species in one of these genera.

Antennae 9-merous with 4-merous club, inserted behind broad clypeus and thus well back of anterior margin of head. Free margin of clypeus with a small rounded median lobe bearing a few blunt teeth. Mandibles triangular, with distinct basal borders curving sharply into edentate apical borders; apical tooth stout, acute, projecting beyond masticatory border and separated from it by a small cleft. Frontal lobes short, contiguous. Eyes reduced to 2-4 weakly pigmented ommatidia situated slightly behind middle of sides of head.

Pronotum with anterior border produced to form a curved overhanging rim or margin. Promesonotal suture distinct and apparently flexible; metanotal groove present as an impressed line, and just in front of this, the trunk is deeply constricted as seen from above, in the manner of some Centromyrmex and Cryptopone species. Dorsal face of propodeum rounded into declivity. Propodeal spiracle round, situated at mid-height of posterior trunk. Legs short, robust. Tibial spur of anterior leg broad and pectinate, but distinguishable spurs are lacking on middle and hind legs. Tarsal claws short, simple.

Petiole and gaster formed as in Amblyopone, the petiole with a brief peduncle that broadens from its insertion caudad and slopes upward as the anterior face of the node. Petiole broadly attached to first (postpetiolar) segment of gaster; constriction between postpetiole and remainder of gaster distinct. Sting long and curved.

Body generally shining, but less so on dorsum of head, due to dense small piligerous punctures there, the punctures becoming smaller and less crowded as one passes caudad on body. Hairs short and fine, obliquely erect, abundant over most body surfaces, sparser on mesonotum, rare on mesopleura, coxae and propodeum, which are glabrous. Color yellow.

Queen, dealate: Like worker, and only slightly larger, but with distinct, though modest-sized, multifaceted compound eyes situated behind middle of sides of head. Ocellar triplet present.

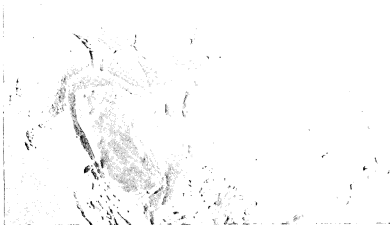


Figure: Concoctio concentra, holotype worker, side view of head and body, scanning electron micrograph by author, magnified 63 times.

Pterothorax well-developed, convex, rounded into propodeal declivity, giving trunk a convex outline in side view.

Male unknown.

Type species: Concoctio concentra Brown n. sp., described on Pilot Register of Zoology Card No. 30.

Distribution: Tropical Africa.

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Edited by W. L. Brown, Jr.